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ONTARIO GOVERNMENT REDUCING HEALTH CARE WAIT TIMES

New Wait Time Data Shows Double-Digit Drops in the Mississauga Halton Area

TORONTO – New data shows the Ontario government's Wait Times Strategy is resulting in decreases in wait times for key health services in the Mississauga Halton Local Health Integration Network (LHIN) area, Health and Long-Term Care Minister George Smitherman announced today.

"Trends in the Mississauga Halton LHIN area are encouraging with significant decreases in wait times for a number of key health services," Smitherman said. "Through the leadership and hard work of thousands of front line health professionals, the Wait Time Strategy is clearly achieving real results by improving access to care, closer to home."

As a result of the government's Wait Time Strategy, wait times in which nine out of 10 patients have completed their surgery or have had their exam in the Mississauga Halton LHIN area have decreased significantly since August/September 2005 by:

- 75.0 per cent for angiography (48 days)
- 49.1 per cent for cataract surgery (106 days)
- 39.0 per cent for angioplasty (8 days)
- 36.0 per cent for cardiac bypass surgery (11 days)
- 28.3 per cent for knee replacement (123 days)
- 26.9 per cent for cancer surgery (21 days)
- 15.9 per cent for hip replacement (39 days)
- 12.1 per cent for CT scans (seven days).

Wait times for other key health services have also declined by:

- 8.2 per cent for MRI scans (eight days).

Since the launch of the Wait Time Strategy, the Ontario government has invested $41,017,001 for additional procedures in hospitals in the Mississauga/Halton LHIN area, including:

- 5,031 cataract surgeries ($3,705,750)
- 10,498 cardiac procedures ($10,746,091)
- 1,840 hip and knee joint replacements ($13,034,120)
- 778 cancer surgeries ($3,189,820)
- 30,655 hours, 45,983 exams MRI ($9,992,820)
- 1,393 hours, 4,876 exams CT ($348,400).

The new wait time data is available at www.ontariowaittimes.com, which is closing in on nearly 4 million hits as of today.

"Achieving these significant decreases is a testament to the dedicated efforts of the health service providers within our LHIN. While we have made significant improvements, we are committed to continuing to work with our local providers and the wait time strategy team to see continued improvements in local wait times for accessing care in our communities," said John Magill, Chair of the Mississauga Halton LHIN.

Today's initiative is part of the McGuinty government's plan for innovation in public health care, building a system that delivers on three priorities – keeping Ontarians healthy, reducing wait time and providing better access to doctors and nurses.

-30-

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